Sub-sector-wise engagement to identify impediments for growth and suggest initiatives aimed at enabling growth and employment have also been carried out by NMCC through sub-group meetings in the following areas:

- Leather & Leather Goods
- Food Processing
- Textiles & Garments
- Auto components
- Capital Goods
- IT Hardware & Electronics
- Paper
- Chemicals & Petrochemicals
- Drugs & Pharmaceuticals.

Granite exports to China

1518. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether granite exports are gradually increasing from Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh to China to construct the stadiums, sporting complexes, the Olympic Village and other commercial purposes for the Beijing Olympics in 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the exports so far;

(c) the income earned from these exports so far; and

(d) the likely income to be generated in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Exports statistics for granite State-wise and district-wise are not centrally maintained.

Price Subsidy Scheme for small tea growers

1519.SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced a price subsidy scheme for small tea growers for a period of four-months;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the number of persons benefited and the amount given as subsidy;

(c) whether Government has announced a separate package for the tea gardens of northern West Bengal; and

(d) whether desired result has been achieved after implementing the price subsidy scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) A price subsidy scheme for small tea growers was implemented for a four month period from February to May 2004. Details of the number of small growers benefited and the amount given as subsidy are given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/Region	No. of small growers benefited	Amount of subsidy disbursed
Assam	311	9.39
West Bengal	166	11.32
Himachal Pradesh	103	0.90
South India	48,018	2064.15
TOTAL	48,598	2085.76

(c) No Sir. However, Government is examining the possibility of introducing some of the rural development schemes in tea plantations in North Bengal as a pilot project so as to reduce the social sector costs beign incurred by the tea plantations.

(d) The price subsidy scheme was implemented only as an ad-hoc relief measure for a period of four months considering the continued fall in tea prices and the difficulties faced by the small tea growers. The aim of the scheme was to compensate for the price loss sustained by the growers. To this extent, the scheme can be considered to have achieved the desired results.